
MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF
ANTIGONISH

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 23, 2020, 6:30 pm
Council Chambers
Municipal Administration Building
285 Beech Hill Road
Beech Hill, NS B2G 0B4

Present were: Warden Owen McCarron
Deputy Warden Hugh Stewart
Councillor Mary MacLellan
Councillor Donnie MacDonald
Councillor Remi Deveau
Councillor John Dunbar
Councillor Gary Mattie (by Zoom)
Councillor Bill MacFarlane
Councillor Harris McNamara
Councillor Shawn Brophy

Staff Present: Glenn Horne, CAO
Beth Schumacher, Deputy Clerk
Allison Duggan, Director of Finance

1. **Call to Order – Chairman, Warden Owen McCarron**

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by the Chair, Warden McCarron, at 6:41 pm.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Warden McCarron called for any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Moved and Seconded

That the agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of November 9, 2020 Committee of the Whole Minutes**

Warden McCarron called for any errors or omissions in the minutes.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 9, 2020 be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Councillor MacLellan asked for a follow-up on the Casket item, as well as the suggestion that was made to set up a network of seniors who may need assistance with snow removal or other tasks. Discussion followed. Mr. Horne also gave the Committee an update about the letter that was sent to Dr. Strang.

5. **Continuing Business**

a. **Support for Community Centres**

Mr. Horne asked the Committee for ideas for supporting Community Centres that have been struggling due to COVID restrictions. Suggestions included looking at what shortages centres are facing and determining a standard amount for each community centre, particularly if they are comfort centres. Consensus for staff to look at funds and what funding can be used for this purpose.

b. **Standing Committee Appointments**

Mr. Horne reviewed the recommended list of committee appointments for Council.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Standing Committee Appointments as proposed.

Motion Carried

6. **New Business**

a. **Statement of Estimates / Financial Information Return**

Mrs. Duggan provided an overview of the Statement of Estimates and the Financial Information Return, and their role as tools of Provincial reporting.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Statement of Estimates A & B and the Fiscal Year 2019/20 Financial Information Return.

Motion Carried

b. Strategic Priority Setting 2020-2024

Mr. Horne reviewed the outline that has been developed in preparation for the Strategic Priority Setting sessions that are being planned for early in the new year. The anticipated format for the session was discussed, and Mr. Horne asked the Committee to identify any additional resources and preferred speakers for the event. A total of 6-8 hours is anticipated for the exercise. Suggestions for tourism/marketing priorities being added to the priorities session, and some suggested speakers, were provided.

c. Road Naming Petitions

6.c.1 Bluff Lane - District 8

Councillor Mattie spoke to the road name change petition that was received by the County and approved by the Civic Addressing Coordinator.

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the road name change petition to give the name Bluff Lane to a previously unnamed private lane off of B-4 Road in East Tracadie.

Motion Carried

6.c.2 Landing View Lane - District 10

Moved and Seconded

That Municipal Council approve the road name change petition to give the name Landing View Lane to a previously unnamed private lane off of Grandview Drive in Greenwold.

Motion Carried

d. Coyotes in the County

Councillor MacFarlane spoke to complaints that he has been receiving throughout District 10 about coyotes attacking pets. A request was made to send a letter to Lands and Forestry for help with the concerns by looking at how to address the issue and provide further information resources to residents.

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be tabled at 7:30pm for a Special Council Meeting.

Motion Carried

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called back to order by Warden Owen McCarron at 8:38 pm.

e. Speeding and Dangerous Driving in District 10

Councillor MacFarlane brought forward concerns that he has received about speeders and dangerous drivers in the community. Complaints are forwarded to the RCMP for enforcement. Councillors MacFarlane suggested other opportunities for Council to try to tackle the concern, including education and public messaging. Other Councillors shared similar concerns with speeding in their districts, with suggestions about what has and has not helped, such as the digital feedback signs. A suggestion was also made to add the concern to an upcoming agenda of the Police Advisory Committee.

Councillor MacFarlane asked whether photo radar might be an option for the Municipality or the RCMP. Mr. Horne shared some preliminary information about the issue, and suggested that further discussion at the Police Advisory Committee may be advisable. Further advocacy for legislative change may also be appropriate.

f. Streetlight Requests

6.f.1 Brierly Brook Road and Old School Road Intersection

Councillor Brophy provided the Committee with an overview of concerns raised by residents and cyclists regarding the visibility of the intersection at night.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of Brierly Brook Road and Old School Road.

Motion Carried

6.f.2 St. Joseph's Road and Addington Forks Road Intersection

Deputy Warden Stewart spoke to the poor visibility of the intersection in the dark and in poor weather.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council approve the installation of a streetlight at the intersection of St. Joseph's Road and Addington Forks Road.

Motion Carried

g. Wellness Policy Review

Mr. Horne provided a summary of the memo in the agenda package speaking to the wellness pilot that was created in 2017. Overall uptake of the program has been good, with positive feedback. Suggested changes to the program and policy were reviewed. Discussion followed.

Moved and Seconded

The Committee recommends that Municipal Council continue the Wellness Program and approve the revised Wellness Policy.

Motion Carried

7. Reports from Inter-Municipal Boards, Committees and Commissions

a. Antigonish Heritage Museum Board

No meeting has been held since the municipal election.

b. Antigonish Arena Association

The next meeting is scheduled for November 24th.

c. Antigonish Crime Prevention

The next meeting is scheduled for November 24th.

d. Eastern District Planning Commission

The next meeting is scheduled for November 26th.

e. Eastern Regional Solid Waste Management Committee

No meeting has been held since the municipal election.

f. Pictou Antigonish Regional Library

No meeting has been held since the municipal election.

g. RK MacDonald Nursing Home

No meeting has been held since the municipal election.

h. County Paqtnkek Joint Steering Committee

No meeting to report on.

8. Community Events

- Councillor McNamara shared information about an outdoor Christmas event being organized in Havre Boucher on December 5th.

- Councillor Deveau shared a concert scheduled for December 5th at Pomquet Church

10. In Camera Items

Moved and Seconded

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned to an In-Camera Session to discuss the Litigation/Potential Litigation at 9:12 pm.

Motion Carried

Moved and Seconded

That the In-Camera session be adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Motion Carried

11. Adjournment

Moved

That the Committee of the Whole meeting be adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Motion Carried

Warden Owen McCarron

Glenn Horne, CAO